

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
410-848-4646

JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Westminster Police Department Joins *Click It or Ticket* Campaign To Crack Down On Those Not Using Seat Belts – Especially At Night

The Westminster Police Department will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates all across the country for the 2012 National *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization, May 1-June 5, 2012. During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts – both day and night.

Because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among those least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in crashes while unrestrained, nighttime enforcement has become a priority of the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. Of those who died in nighttime crashes in 2009, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) were not wearing seat belts at the time of their fatal crash. In 2009, 11,593 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes nationwide between the nighttime hours of 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Many more nighttime traffic deaths can be prevented if more motorists simply start wearing their seat belts. That’s why the Westminster Police Department is strongly supporting enhanced nighttime enforcement of seat belt laws during the May 1 – June 5, 2012, *Click It or Ticket* campaign,” said Chief Jeff Spaulding. “We will be out in force to remind drivers and occupants to always wear their seat belts – both day and night.”

High-visibility enforcement such as the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization is credited with increasing the national belt usage rate from 58 percent in 1994 to an observed usage rate of 85 percent in 2010. Here in Westminster our observed usage rate was 90.6%, but there is still more work to be done. Belt use saves thousands of lives each year across America. In 2009 alone, seat belts saved 12,713 lives nationwide.

“Law enforcement will be cracking down on *Click It or Ticket* violators around the clock. Local motorists should be prepared to buckle up. If law enforcement finds you on the road unbuckled anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a ticket — not a warning. No excuses and no exceptions,” said Chief Jeff Spaulding.

Remember this May 1 to June 5: It’s Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You’ll save the cost of a ticket and maybe even save a life - YOUR OWN!

MEDIA CONTACT

SGT. KEITH BENFER
COMMUNITY EDUCATION
SECTION
WESTMINSTER POLICE
DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
21157
(410) 857-9282